

### The Lottery Business.

The last large tract of government land in Nebraska was parceled out recently by the United States through a drawing at North Platte.

In practical effect, the awards of quarter sections were a land lottery. The grand prizes were tracts of 160 acres worth \$15,000 each. The holders of the lucky numbers got the best prizes just as they used to get them in the Louisiana lottery.

The award was by lot. Every participant in the drawing had a gambler's chance for the best prizes. In actuality, it was a process involving all the elements of a game of chance and all the glamour of real gambling.

After making lotteries an indictable offense, and after denying lotteries the use of the mails, it is strange that the government of the United States should resort to a lottery in parceling out government lands. It is curious that the government itself should be guilty of the thing for which it punishes the citizen.

But it is the lack of intelligence in the distribution of the land that most challenges attention. How indefensible for the government to give a man for a comparatively few dollars a quarter section of land worth \$15,000, and decide by lot that he and not some other shall have it. When the government lands are now so nearly exhausted with so many landless people anxious to get a site for a home, why make the distribution a matter of luck or accident rather than a matter of intelligent design?

With the remnant of lands that is left, why shouldn't the United States sell small tracts to actual settlers on the highest bid? The bidder could be given a term of say ten years in which to pay, and an interest rate of only three per cent.

The state of Minnesota has been following that plan for more than fifty years and with splendid results. It is a plan that eliminates the adventurer, the speculator, the perjuror, and the gambler from the land business.

The low interest and long time place the land within reach of the humblest. They open the way for men to get a home and subsistence until there is means to pay off the original investment. The bidding settles the question of who is to have each tract and on terms and conditions in harmony with business principles, common sense and good morals.

For the land lotteries should be substituted public sales on long time with low interest to the highest bidding actual settler.

### Valued at \$128,207,197.

Livestock to the value of \$128,207,197 marketed during the year 1912 by the 114 counties of Missouri, according to advance information from the 1913 Red Book of the bureau of labor statistics, given publicly by Commissioner John T. Fitzpatrick.

To give a more definite idea of what the shipments consisted of there were 1,075,032 head of cattle and calves, valued at \$55,251,000; 3,520,192 head of hogs, valued at \$44,094,900; 150,000 head of horses and mules, valued at \$19,580,250; 1,204,750 head of sheep and lambs, valued at \$8,402,250; 15,171 head of goats, valued at \$100,197; and 820 jacks and stallions valued at \$900,000.

Buchanan county carried off the honors of having shipped the most cattle, the amount being 65,872 head, and Nodaway the greatest number of hogs, with 135,076 head, and Holt county shipped 5,809 head of horses and mules.

### Mathematical Wizard Dies.

"Rube" Field, familiarly known in Western Missouri as a mathematical prodigy, died recently at the Jackson county poor farm at the age of 70 years.

If you gave Rube the distance by rail between two cities the dimensions of a car wheel he would tell you almost as soon as the statement left your lips how many revolutions of the wheel would be necessary to travel from one place to the other. If you called any number of columns of figures down a page he would tell you the sum as soon as you reached the bottom. If you gave him the number of yards or pounds of an article and the price, he would immediately return the total cost. He could keep up the performance all day, apparently without fatigue.

### Women's Union—42nd Anniversary, January 6, 1914.

Musical—Miss Lilian Price.  
Roll—"What the Union Means to Me."  
Song—Selected—Mrs. Hinde.  
Anniversary Address—The President.  
Instrumental Duet—Mrs. Phillips and Mrs. Kunkel.  
Reading—Miss Cora Frye.  
Song—Mrs. Grace Dungan.  
Reading—Mrs. Emma Philbrick.  
Song—Mrs. Bridgeman.  
Reminiscences—Mrs. Mary Curry.  
Instrumental Music—Mrs. Murphy.

### Those Boy Wonders.

Every now and then the public is told of wonderful scholastic or mechanical achievements of young boys. It is now reading about Norbert Weiner, at 18 years of age, has been created a doctor of philosophy by Harvard university. He is another "boy wonder," who for a time will engage public attention.

The public, however, is not wondering so much regarding these "boy wonders" as concerning what finally becomes of them. There have been a lot of them, prodigies who achieved almost next to the impossible—breaks in comparison with normal boys. Like meteors, they have flashed brilliantly across the intellectual sky, and then have disappeared. The public has a right to wonder because it has a right to expect something of real benefit from such remarkable intellectual development. Great minds are synonymous with great blessings, but when the blessings do not come, there must be some reason. Why is it?

### St. Joseph Auto Show.

The St. Joseph Automobile Show, to be held February 4 to 7, 1914, is already attracting the attention of all the big manufacturers and dealers in autos. The number of entries already made assures the management that the entire exhibiting space at the Auditorium will be taken long before the show opens.

Many novelties, such as Stren Auto Horns on which tunes can be played, self-starters, electric air-pumps, four-wheel skid and all the latest accessories for auto owners, will be exhibited.

Robert Walters is back home from Des Moines, Iowa, where he was called on business.

### Shoving the Queer.

New counterfeit \$5 and \$10 bills are on the market, according to warnings sent out by the government secret service. The \$5 bill is a good imitation of the genuine bill. It is printed on a bleached \$1 bill and the counterfeit is of the series of 1899, letter "C" plate No. 1500, with the names J. C. Napier, register of the treasury, and Lee McClung, treasurer of the United States, on it.

The \$10 bill is said to be of very crude workmanship and is printed on ordinary bond paper. The silk fibers of the genuine note are imitated with pen and ink, while the color of the seal and counter is brick red.

There were 365 persons arrested for counterfeiting in the United States during the fiscal year ending June 30, last, according to the annual report of W. J. Flynn, chief of the secret service division of the treasury department. The amount of counterfeited and altered notes confiscated aggregated \$22,137 and the amount of counterfeit coins totaled \$19,884.

### Church Is Sold.

T. C. Shepherd, president of the board of trustees of the Mound City Free Methodist church, was here the latter part of the week and sold the old Free Methodist church building and lot in the east part of town to A. P. Brown, who expects to remodel the building into a residence. The consideration was \$250.

This building was erected in 1893. The denomination was not sufficiently represented in this city to maintain regular services during the past few years, and at the last session of conference the property was ordered sold, and the funds received to be applied on the debt of the St. Joseph Free Methodist church—Mound City News, December 18.

### Sings at His Work.

The Continental and Commercial National Bank of Chicago has a caged songster—an employee who is usually humming to himself a cheerful little song. The other day a depositor laughed at him good-naturedly for the habit and also spoke of it to a veteran employee in the next cage. Said the veteran in reply:

"The man in the next cage has been a great help to me for two years. He is usually singing softly to himself. I have seen him irritated or cross and he always has a cheerful word for every customer at his window."

A cheery nature and disposition to look upon the bright side of life in its round are jewels beyond price. Their lucky owner radiates good cheer and dodges lots of trouble.

Give us, oh, give us the man who sings at his work! He will do more in the same time than the "grouch" and he will do it better.

### Program

Of the M. E. W. F. M. S.,  
JANUARY 2, 1914.  
Hostess—Mrs. Maggie Howell.  
Topic—India.  
Leader—Mrs. H. C. Cook.  
Missions in India, Mrs. B. G. Pierce.  
A Hell Festival in India, Mrs. J. F. Ramsay.  
Under the Stars and Stripes in the Philippines, Mrs. J. H. Thompson.  
The Mystery Box answers in October Friend, Mrs. E. S. Thatcher.

Misses Bibbion and Bessie Moser, of Anazonia, visited with their cousin, Mrs. Roy Grimes and family, Saturday evening and Sunday last. They also visited with their aunt, Mrs. John Selank and family, the last of the week.

Forbes, Mo., Dec. 25, 1913

FRIENDS:—

We take this opportunity of thanking you most heartily for the business favored us with in the past, and to assure you of our great desire to continue trade relations with you.

May the year 1914 and many thereafter bring to you and yours good cheer, health and prosperity in abundance, and with the season's compliments, we beg to remain,

Your Friends,

G. T. Metcalf & Company

We extend our best wishes to our friends and patrons for  
**A Merry Christmas and Happy and Prosperous New Year**  
and wish to thank them for their patronage in the past and we hope for a continuance of the same for  
**1914**

**The Variety Store**

WE wish our patrons a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thank them for their liberal patronage in the past, and asking for a continuance of the same in the future, we are

Yours Truly,

**OREGON FURNITURE CO.**

### A Glimpse of California for You

Would you like to see some of the wonders of California? Haven't you been dreaming about the Golden State for a long while? Wouldn't you like to see with your own eyes some of the world's famous resorts and hotels? Wouldn't you like to know how to see and enjoy these big, hospitable, homelike hotels? Wouldn't you like to look at the green hills and smiling valleys, the fragrant orange groves, the folks at play in the winterless paradise of the Pacific?

### HOW TO BRING CALIFORNIA TO YOUR HOME

Yes that is possible. If you will send us ten cents merely to cover cost of mailing, we will send you free a booklet descriptive of California's famous resorts and in addition the big Christmas Number of SUNSET MAGAZINE with a big story of the progress of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition and further views of this Pacific Coast wonderland. Be sure to mention this newspaper and address your letter to

**SUNSET MAGAZINE, San Francisco, California.**

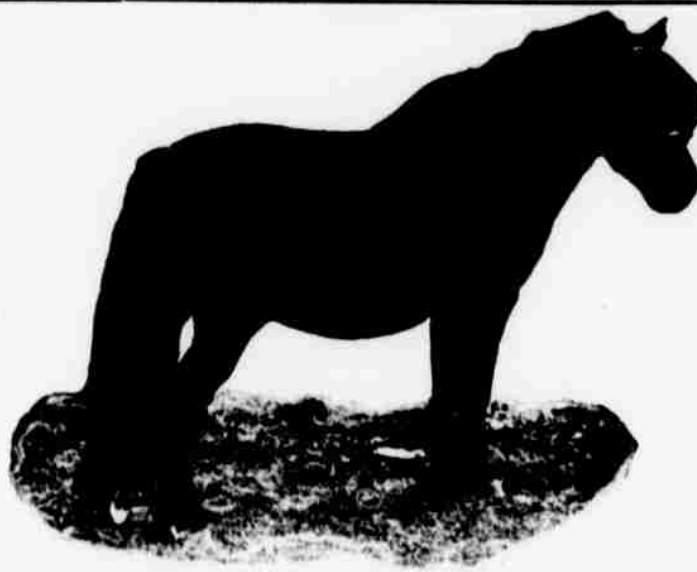
—William Grepler and family, of Cook, Neb., have many friends here, and they will be glad to know that Will can now say "one more"—a daughter was born to them, November 18.

—Miss Blanche Markland, principal of the Castana, Iowa, High school, is here to bring cheer and the gladness spirit to her parents, Dr. Fred Markland and wife, during the Yuletide season.

## "LADY WALKOVER" To Be Given Away.

Each and every  
Purchase of  
\$1.00 entitles  
you to a  
chance.

See her in  
our window.



**KOOCK at Oregon**

### Society.

On Saturday evening, December 20, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Murray entertained a merry crowd of young people for their sons, James, Avon and Hanson, the two latter having come home from the State University for the holiday season.

Although the weather was stormy, thirty were present and report a most enjoyable evening. The house was beautifully decorated in the Christmas colors, with bunches of mistletoe all about the rooms. The guests were kept busy with various guessing contests, Miss Katherine King receiving a large bunch of mistletoe for the most correct answers to the "Musical Romance," and Miss Edith Boyd the same for guessing the contents of the greatest number of curiously wrapped packages.

Misses Josephine and Abbie Murray, assisted by Miss Eleanor Kunkel, served the guests with delicious refreshments of brown and white sandwiches, pickles, ice cream, cake and fruit punch.

Misses Hallie Gelvin, Grace Bailey, Eleanor Kunkel and Oakley Morris gave some very pleasing musical numbers.

Miss Mabel Petree, of Savannah, was an out-of-town guest at the party.

—Grandma Mary Weis reached her 75th milestone Sunday last, December 21, and her neighbors and friends, loaded up their baskets with the good things to eat, and just went over to her home in the Culp district, and had a most enjoyable visit with her, and the pleasure that came to all will no doubt be remembered by each and every one.

### Real Estate Mimeograph.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY W. H. RICHARDS, OREGON, MO.  
OFFICE UPSTAIRS IN THE MOORE BLOCK.

### Abstracter and Negotiator of Loans

Transfers for week ending December 20, 1913:

**WARRANTY DEEDS**  
R E Terhune and wife to Sarah A Skeels, lot 14, Cordelia Hills sub ..... 875  
Mary A Nevins to Chas R Nevins, w 1 nw 31, 63, 38 ..... 1  
Mary A Brown to M E Thomas, tract ne 27, 60, 38 ..... 1  
Alonso Evans to Lee Evans, Pts Sec 1 and 12, 60, 39 ..... 2,880  
Anso R Cass to T C Dungan, Pt 35, 60, 38 ..... 2,880  
R R Bagby to Carrie A Learn, nw sw nw 16, 61, 38 ..... 700  
E E Williams to T C Dungan, w 1 block 13, Oregon ..... 1,200  
Robt D Miller to Geo A Hart, Pt sw se 4, 62, 37 ..... 4,800  
Martha A Roberts to Ernest Gelvin, s 1 s 19 and n 1 ne 16, 62, 37 ..... 24,000  
**QUITCLAIM DEEDS**  
Isaac M Minton to Jos L Minton, lot 9, block 2, Fortescue ..... 1  
R R Bagby to Carrie A Learn, e 16 1 feet e 1 ne 17, 61, 38 ..... 1  
J H Junk to Jas A Moon, 166 acres accretion, 17, 60, 39 ..... 10  
Ed Fitzmaurice to American Tel and Tel Co, Easement s 1 sw 1 sw 18, 60, 38 ..... 25  
F B Lowe to Mary E Lowe, agreement lot 7, block 7, Craig ..... 1  
Ed A Brown to Enra Adelle Brown, will, all lands 5 and 6, 61, 39 ..... 1  
C B & Q R R Co to Mary A Fitzmaurice, Pt 13, 60, 39 ..... 1

### Presbyterian Church Notes.

Rev. J. S. Cunningham will deliver the New Year's sermon next Sunday morning. A cordial invitation is extended to the public.

The monthly union service will be held at the M. E. church at 7:30 p. m. and Rev. B. H. Smallwood, the pastor of the Southern Methodist church at Forest City, will preach.

Good congregations were present at both services last Sunday to hear the Christmas sermons and enjoy the Christmas music. The quartettes sang Christmas anthems appropriate to the season. Miss West favored us with a fine solo at the evening service, which was very much enjoyed by all present.

The Sunday school had their annual Christmas tree and exercises Christmas Eve and each member received a treat. Songs, recitations and drills by the various classes made an interesting program.

T. A. CLAUGETT, Pastor.

—Charley Huntsman, of Hutchinson, Kas., is home for the holiday season, and he says its mighty good to get back home once in a while, anyway.

—Jimmie Brohan, who is now a conductor on the Chicago Great Western railway, with headquarters at Des Moines, is home for the Christmas season, and we are glad, too, that he is every way making good—May it ever be so, Jimmie.

—George, the little five-year-old son of Ed Williams, was taken to a St. Joseph hospital last week, where he was operated upon Friday last, for a very severe case of appendicitis. His father and Mr. Estabrook accompanied him to the hospital, and the latest reports are that the little fellow is doing as well as could be expected.